

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A blind rivet assembly comprising:
 - a tubular shank;
 - a radially outwardly extending flange at one end of the shank, the flange homogenously joined to the shank and including:
 - a substantially planar first surface;
 - a domed second surface convexly curving outwardly away from the first surface; and
 - an outer peripheral surface tapering inwardly from the domed second surface to the first surface;
 - a stem extending through the shank and having a head situated adjacent the end of the shank remote from the flange; and
 - a cap disposable about the flange in contact with the domed surface and engaged with the outer peripheral surface.
2. (original) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the stem extends through the shank, and the head is positioned outside the shank.

3. (withdrawn) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the head is positioned within a portion of the shank having an enlarged bore, at its end remote from the flange.

4. (previously presented) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the flange is circular in outline and the outer peripheral surface is a conical edge surface of the flange.

5. (withdrawn) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the flange has a peripheral rebate at its edge adjacent the shank.

6. (withdrawn) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 5, wherein the peripheral rebate is formed by a recess in the edge region of the flange.

7. (withdrawn) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 5, wherein the peripheral rebate is formed by a spacer component positioned in contact with the surface of the flange adjacent the shank, the spacer component having an outer diameter less than the diameter of the undersurface of the shank.

8. (withdrawn) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 5, wherein the peripheral rebate is formed by a dished edge region of the flange.

9. (previously presented) A blind rivet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cap is resiliently deformable to be engageable onto the flange, the cap comprising:

a first surface having a cavity operable to receive the flange; and.

a second surface opposed to the first surface having opposed cantilever arms extending away from the second surface, the cantilever arms defining a partial-cylindrical passage adapted to receive a tubular shaped object.

10. (previously presented) The cap for use with a blind rivet assembly according to claim 9, the cap being formed from a resilient polymeric material.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The cap according to claim 10, wherein each of the cantilever arms comprise a lead-in surface formed at a distal end angled with respect to the second surface.

13. (previously presented) The cap according to claim 12, wherein the opposed cantilever arms further define a pipe clamp.

14. (withdrawn) A cap according to claim 11, wherein the securing formation comprises a pair of flexible strap elements attached to the cap at one of their respective ends, the other ends of the strap elements being formed with complementary parts of a securing device for attaching the strap elements together.

15. (withdrawn) A cap according to claim 11, wherein the securing formation is a cable tie.

16. (withdrawn) A cap according to claim 10, further comprising a vent bore providing fluid communication between the cavity and a surface of the cap opposite the opening.

17. (withdrawn) A cap according to claim 16, further comprising a filter mesh in the vent bore.

18. (withdrawn) A method of attaching a second component to a fabrication comprising sheet material, comprising the steps of:

providing aligned holes in two portions of sheet material;

joining the sheet material portions by setting rivets in the aligned holes, the rivets comprising a tubular shank having a radially outwardly extending flange at one end and a stem extending through the shank from a head situated adjacent the end of the shank remote from the flange and the flange including an undercut surface facing towards the end of the shank remote from the flange;

providing a second component with a cavity for receiving the flange of a rivet assembly after setting, the cavity having an opening and an undercut surface surrounding the opening; and

resiliently engaging the undercut surface of the flange of the rivet assembly and the undercut surface of the cavity to retain the second component to the flange.

19. (previously presented) A blind rivet assembly, comprising:

- a tubular shank having first and second ends;
- a radially outwardly extending flange homogenously joined to the first end of the shank, the flange including an outwardly facing surface having a convexly curving domed shape and an oppositely facing planar surface facing towards the second end and oriented substantially perpendicular to the shank;
- an undercut surface of the flange facing towards the second end of the shank;
- a stem slidably positionable within the shank, the stem including a radially enlarged head positionable to engage the second end of the shank remote from the flange; and
- a cap disposable about the flange and engaged with the undercut surface and the convexly curving domed shape of the flange.

20. (currently amended) The blind rivet assembly according to claim 19, further comprising a the cap of a resilient material operable to completely cover the flange, the cap including a cavity defining an undersurface operable to contact the domed outwardly facing surface of the flange, the cavity including an undercut surface resiliently engageable with the undercut surface of the flange to removably retain the cap on the flange.

21. (previously presented) A blind rivet assembly operable to join first and second sheets each having co-aligned bores, the blind rivet assembly comprising:

a tubular shank having first and second ends and an outer diameter substantially equal to a diameter of the co-aligned bores, the outer diameter of the tubular shank being slidably receivable within the co-aligned bores;

a radially outwardly extending flange at the first end of the shank, the flange including a first surface having a domed shape positionable facing away from the first and second sheets and a second substantially planar surface oriented substantially perpendicular to the shank and positionable to abut one of the first and second sheets when the shank is received in the co-aligned bores;

the flange including an undercut surface facing towards the second end of the shank;

a stem slidably positionable within the shank, the stem including a radially enlarged head having an outer diameter substantially equal to a diameter of the shank, the head positionable to engage the second end of the shank remote from the flange; and

a cap of a resilient material having a substantially cylindrical outer peripheral wall and a cavity defining an undersurface operable to contact the domed first surface of the flange, the cavity including an undercut surface engageable with the undercut surface of the flange to removably retain the cap on the flange.

22. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 21, wherein the cap further comprises a securing formation for attaching a further component to the cap.

23. (previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the securing formation further comprises a pair of spaced resilient cantilever arms each having a free end and opposed enlargements each proximate to one of the free ends.